

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NL

SUBJECT: RENEWED AFL-CIO INVITATION TO FNV PRESIDENT WIM
KOK

REFS: (A) THE HAGUE 5309, (B) THE HAGUE 5108

1. AS A FOLLOW UP TO EARLIER AFL-CIO INVITATION TO FNV
PRESIDENT KOK TO ATTEND RECENT BIENNIAL CONVENTION, WHICH
KOK WAS THEN UNABLE TO ACCEPT, PER REFTELS, DEPARTMENT NOW
INFORMED THAT AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY CABLED KOK JANUARY 6,
INVITING HIM TO BE THE GUEST OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
DURING ITS MEETINGS THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20 AT BAL HARBOUR,
FLORIDA. THE CABLE REPORTEDLY INDICATES THAT IF KOK IN-
FORMS THE AFL-CIO THAT HE IS ABLE TO ATTEND THE FEBRUARY
MEETING, PRESIDENT MEANY WILL SEND HIM A FORMAL WRITTEN
INVITATION.

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2. SINCE AFL-CIO HAS NOT YET HAD RESPONSE FROM KOK, IT IS
SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY CONTACT HIM TO INQUIRE ABOUT HIS
REACTIONS TO THE RENEWED INVITATION AND TO ENCOURAGE HIM,
AS APPROPRIATE, TO ACCEPT. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO BRING TO
KOK'S ATTENTION FACT THAT THE ANNUAL MID-WINTER MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OFFERS UNUSUALLY GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR

RELATIVELY RELAXED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TOP LEADERS OF THE AFL-CIO BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY. IN THAT RESPECT, THE COUNCIL MEETING OFFERS AN EVEN BETTER OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS THAN THE USUALLY MORE HECTIC PACE PREVAILING AT THE BIENNIAL CONVENTION. IF INDEED KOK WISHES TO PURSUE HIS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE AFL-CIO, PER REFTEL A, THE COUNCIL MEETING PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OCCASION TO DO SO.

3. IF KOK CANNOT TAKE THE NECESSARY TIME IN FEBRUARY TO ACCEPT THE STANDING OFFER OF A 30-DAY IVP GRANT, PART OF WHICH WOULD BE PROGRAMMED TO INCLUDE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, PERHAPS EMBASSY WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER OFFERING HIM A PARTIAL GRANT, FOR EXAMPLE, PER DIEM AND INTERNAL U.S. TRAVEL FOR PURPOSE OF ATTENDING THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING ALONE. ALTERNATIVELY, OF COURSE, KOK MIGHT WISH TO VISIT WITH THE COUNCIL FOR A FEW DAYS ON HIS OWN. THE AFL-CIO MAY BE EXPECTED TO PICK UP THE TAB FOR THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS BUT NOT FOR THE TRAVEL.

4. IN ANY CASE, KOK SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO REPLY DIRECTLY TO MEANY ASAP. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO INFORM DEPARTMENT OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS WITH KOK PURSUANT TO PARA 2 ABOVE. CHRISTOPHER

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